He next complained that their crops were suffering greatly from scarcity of water and suggested that an irrigation survey of the taluk might be conducted by a qualified Engineer under the direction of the Director of Agriculture. On that officer's report steps should be taken to restore and maintain the several irrigation channels, *chiras* and tanks and also to open new ones wherever necessary. He learned that oil-driven lift engines would be useful in North Travancore and, if so, he prayed that it might be practically demonstrated to the people.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

67. Suggestions for making the Department of Agriculture more useful to the people.

Mr. T. K. Madhavan (Member, Nominated) dilated on the benefits of the application of scientific knowledge to agriculture in the State and dwelt on the utility of research work in Entomology, Agricultural Chemistry, &c., with special reference to cocoanut palm disease. He suggested the appointment of a Mycologist for the State and pleaded for more Demonstration Farms to be opened by Government. If Government could not open them, then grants-in-aid should be given to private Demonstration Farms. A standing grievance of the ryots was in regard to the giving of agricultural loans. There was some serious practical difficulty in the working of the present Agricultural Loans Regulation. If the ryots should really enjoy the benefits of the Regulation, there should be suitable modifications under which the Director of Agriculture should have some substantial share in the granting of the loans as in the United Provinces, Central Provinces and other countries. The system of credit sale of manures should be revived and the cost of manures sold on credit should be recovered along with the land revenue. In conclusion, the Member complained that the budget allotment for Agriculture was very small when compared to the amount of funds given to the Agricultural Department in other countries and prayed that the allotment might be substantially increased.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(2) Other Industries.

68. State aid to industrial and commercial pursuits.

Mr. C. Raman Tampi B. A. & B. L., (Member, Quilon taluk) prefaced his remarks by observing that, since the last Assembly, the distress on account of scarcity of food stuffs became more acute, but that owing to the strenuous efforts made by Government to purchase and distribute large quantities of rice and paddy from Rangoon and other outside places, the situation had been considerably eased. He, therefore, took the opportunity to publicly thank the Government for their generous help. He then pointed out that, though the question of food supply was, to some extent, satisfactorily solved, the situation as regards articles of clothing was still grave and called for prompt and effective action.

He admitted that the concessions granted by Government for the ship-building industry in Travancore had, no doubt, induced the people to form themselves into companies and pretty good progress was also visible. It was necessary that the progress made should be kept up. To attain that end Government should offer further financial help in the shape of the insurance of all Travancore-made ships. If the whole cost could not be met by Government, a reasonable portion might be given by way of grants, or failing even that, the companies should be given loans at low rates of interest, the loan being made re-payable in easy instalments. The Member added that, in regard to insurance, his suggestion had the support of Sir George Buchanan of the Indian Munitions Board who visited Quilon some time back.

The construction of a harbour at Quilon was a necessary corollary to the ship-building industry. Even as far back as 1882, steps were taken to prepare an estimate which, according to expert opinion of that time, was Rs. 27 lakhs. Since then both export and import trade had considerably increased and the suggestion of a port for Quilon was pressed more than once. Besides the produce of the cocoanut palm, there were tea, rubber, &c., which at present were being sent to Tuticorin for export. They would all be exported from Quilon, if it had a harbour. The advantages of having a large harbour were that it would attract capitalists and give

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly